

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SCHUETZ, KLAUS), PFOR, PINT, WB, UK

SUBJECT: SCHUETZ VISIT

REF: USMISSION BERLIN 2091, 2014

SUMMARY: RECENT LONDON VISIT BY WEST BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ WENT OFF SMOOTHLY, ACCORDING TO FCO, AND WAS PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT IN ASSISTING SCHUETZ'S ELECTION CHANCES THAN IN FURTHERING UK-FRG RELATIONS. VISIT RECEIVED SCANT PUBLICITY HERE, BUT SCHUETZ HAD ELEVEN WEST BERLIN JOURNALISTS WITH HIM. END SUMMARY.

1. FCO OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF DECEMBER 5 THAT RECENT VISIT IN NOVEMBER TO LONDON BY WEST BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ WAS "ONE OF THOSE THINGS." PERIODICALLY WEST GERMAN MAYORS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO VISIT LONDON AND THE SCHUETZ VISIT WENT OFF VERY MUCH AS SCHEDULED.

2. THERE WAS LITTLE SUBSTANCE IN THE VISIT. SCHUETZ HAD FORMAL CALLS ON PM WILSON, FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLA-
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GHAN AND HATTERSLEY. CALL ON CALLAGHAN, FOR EXAMPLE,

HAD LASTED ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES, WITH ONLY FIRST FIVE MINUTES OR SO DEVOTED TO UK-BERLIN RELATIONSHIP. REST OF CONVERSATION WAS QUITE INFORMAL AND COVERED RECENT SPD LOSSES IN WEST GERMAN ELECTIONS, UPCOMING ELECTION IN BERLIN, ETC.

3. ASKED WHY THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE COVERAGE OF THE VISIT BY BRITISH PRESS, FCO OFFICIAL SAID IMPORTANCE OF VISIT HIGHLIGHTED BY FACT SCHUETZ BROUGHT ELEVEN WEST BERLIN JOURNALISTS WITH HIM TO COVER THE VISIT AND THAT BERLIN READERSHIP MORE IMPORTANT ON THE VISIT THAN BRITISH IN VIEW OF ELECTIONS THERE NEXT YEAR. PARENTHETICALLY HE ADDED THAT BRITISH LABOR PARTY WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT SPD LOSSES IN WEST GERMAN ELECTIONS AND THOUGHT SCHUETZ MIGHT BE HAVING SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN WEST BERLIN. ANTICIPATION WAS THAT SPD MIGHT GET SIMPLE BUT NOT ABSOLUTE MAJORITY AND LABOR GOVERNMENT WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO LET SCHUETZ MAKE ELECTION CAPITAL OUT OF VISIT.

4. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT TO VISIT WAS WITTY AND AMUSING SPEECH SCHUETZ DELIVERED AT ANGLO-GERMAN FRIENDSHIP DINNER. SPEECH REPORTEDLY WAS GHOSTED FOR SCHUETZ, WELL-DELIVERED, FULL OF THE KIND OF HUMOR ATTRACTIVE TO BRITISH AUDIENCES'

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